

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a gliding board, said assembly comprising:

a release block having at least one jaw for retaining a member for fastening the boot;

the jaw being mounted for movement between a closed position for retaining the fastening member and an open position for releasing the fastening member;

a movable latch for maintaining the jaw in the closed position;

a source of pneumatic energy for controlling movement of the latch, said source of pneumatic energy comprising a reservoir containing a pressurized gas;

the latch being movable between a blocking position and an unblocking position, wherein:

in the blocking position, the latch blocks movement of the jaw to the open position;

in the unblocking position, the latch releases the jaw for movement to the open position, the latch not forcing movement of the jaw to the open position.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a solenoid valve connected to the reservoir of pressurized gas for delivering the pneumatic energy for controlling movement of the latch.

Claim 3. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a pressure regulator is positioned at an outlet of the gas reservoir.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an air cylinder or jack controlled by said source of pneumatic energy positioned for tilting the movable latch for allowing opening of the jaw.

Claim 5. (*Original*) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch is a rocker movable about an axle with an upper arm oriented in a position for closing the jaw, so that the force component passes through the axle for rotating the rocker.

Claim 6. (*Original*) An assembly according to claim 5, wherein the latch is elastically returned to the position for closing the jaw by a spring.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly according to claim 14, ~~claim 11~~, wherein the median arm of said second T-shaped portion of said plate includes a bending zone in which stress gauges are positioned.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 7, wherein a support is positioned under the plate to raise the bending zone.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 7, further comprising a solenoid valve connected to the reservoir of pressurized gas for delivering the pneumatic energy for controlling movement of the latch, wherein a processing circuit connects the stress gauges to the solenoid valve and delivers to the solenoid valve a signal for opening the jaw.

Claim 10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein;

the latch is movable between a blocking position and an unblocking position:

in the blocking position, the latch blocks movement of the jaw to the open position;

in the unblocking position, the latch allows movement of the jaw to the open position;

in moving from the blocking position to the unblocking position, the latch is movable from a position in engagement with a surface to block movement of said jaw to a position spaced from said surface.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly ~~according to claim 1, further comprising~~ for retaining a boot on a gliding board, said assembly comprising:

a release block having at least one jaw for retaining a member for fastening the boot;

the jaw being mounted for movement between a closed position for retaining the fastening member and an open position for releasing the fastening member;

a movable latch for maintaining the jaw in the closed position;

a source of pneumatic energy for controlling movement of the latch, said source of pneumatic energy comprising a reservoir containing a pressurized gas;

a plate supporting said release block, said plate adapted to be positioned between the boot and the gliding board, said plate comprising:

a first portion having a pair of arms and a base extending between respective ends of said arms; and

a second portion having a median arm connected to said base of said first portion and extending between said pair of arms of said first portion.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 12, wherein:

said control system further comprises a stress detector for detecting forces between the boot and the gliding board during use of the gliding board, said stress detector being mounted on said median arm of said second portion of said plate.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly ~~according to claim 1, further comprising~~ for retaining a boot on a gliding board, said assembly comprising:

a release block having at least one jaw for retaining a member for fastening the boot;

the jaw being mounted for movement between a closed position for retaining the fastening member and an open position for releasing the fastening member;

a movable latch for maintaining the jaw in the closed position;

a source of pneumatic energy for controlling movement of the latch, said source of pneumatic energy comprising a reservoir containing a pressurized gas;

a plate supporting said release block, said plate adapted to be positioned between the boot and the gliding board, said plate comprising:

a U-shaped first portion having a pair of arms extending longitudinally along a length of said assembly and adapted to extend along a length of the gliding board, said U-shaped first portion further having a base extending transversely between respective ends of said arms; and

a T-shaped second portion having a median arm connected to said base of said U-shaped first portion and extending longitudinally between said pair of arms of said U-shaped first portion, said T-shaped second portion further having a transverse arm connected to said median arm.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein:

said control system further comprises a stress detector for detecting forces between the boot and the gliding board during use of the gliding board, said stress detector being mounted on said median arm of said T-shaped second portion of said plate.

Claim 16. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a gliding board, said assembly comprising:

at least one jaw for engagement with a portion of the boot to retain the boot on the gliding board;

the jaw being mounted for movement between a boot-retaining position and a boot-releasing position;

a movable latch for controlling movement of the jaw from the boot-retaining position to the boot-releasing position, said movable latch being movable between a position blocking movement of the jaw to the boot releasing position and a position allowing release of the jaw to the boot-releasing position;

a control system for moving the movable latch to said position allowing release of the jaw to the boot-releasing position, said control system comprising:

a source of non-pyrotechnic pneumatic energy, said source of non-pyrotechnic pneumatic energy comprising a reservoir of pressurized gas;

a gas-actuated jack operatively connected to said movable latch;

a solenoid valve operatively interposed between said reservoir of pressurized gas and said jack for controlling actuation of said jack for movement of said movable latch;

a pressure regulator positioned between said reservoir of pressurized gas and said solenoid valve.

Claim 17. (*Canceled*)

Claim 18. (*Canceled*)

Claim 19. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly according to claim 16, 47, wherein:

said control system further comprises a module for detecting, analyzing, and processing forces between the boot and the gliding board during gliding and for sending a control signal to said solenoid valve for movement of said movable latch upon detection of a boot release threshold by said module.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plate adapted to be mounted on the gliding board, at least said jaw of the assembly being supported by said plate, said plate having a bending zone;

wherein said module comprises stress gauges positioned in said bending zone of said plate for detecting said forces between the boot and the gliding board.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 19, further comprising:

a support positioned beneath said plate adapted to raise said bending zone of said plate above an upper surface of the gliding board.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 16, wherein:

the assembly comprises a front binding and a rear binding;

said jaw comprises part of said front binding, said jaw comprising a pair of lateral wings for lateral retention of the front end of the boot and a sole clamp for vertical retention of the front end of the boot;

said rear binding comprises a jaw for retaining a rear of the boot.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 16, wherein:

in moving from the blocking position to the position allowing movement of the jaw to the boot-releasing position, the latch is movable from a position in engagement with a surface blocking movement of said jaw to a position spaced from said surface.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a gliding board, said assembly comprising:

a boot-retaining block having at least one jaw to engage a portion of the boot to retain the boot on the gliding board;

the jaw being mounted for movement between a boot-retaining position and a boot-releasing position;

a movable latch for controlling movement of the jaw from the boot-retaining position to the boot-releasing position;

a control system for moving the movable latch to a position whereby the jaw assumes the boot-releasing position, said control system comprising a source of pneumatic energy;

a plate supporting said boot-retaining block and adapted to be positioned between the boot and the gliding board;

said plate comprising:

a U-shaped first portion having a pair of arms and a base extending transversely between respective ends of said arms; and

a T-shaped second portion having a median arm having a first end connected to said base of said U-shaped first portion, said median arm extending between said pair of arms of said U-shaped first portion, said T-shaped second portion further having a transverse arm connected to a second end of said median arm.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 24, wherein:

said control system further comprises a stress detector for detecting forces between the boot and the gliding board during use of the gliding board, said stress detector being mounted on said median arm of said T-shaped second portion of said plate.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 25, further comprising:

a support positioned under said plate for raising said median arm of said T-shaped second portion of said plate, said median arm comprising a bending zone, said stress detector being mounted in said bending zone.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 26, wherein:

said source of pneumatic energy comprises a reservoir containing a pressurized gas;

said control system further comprises:

a gas-actuated jack operatively connected to said movable latch;

a solenoid valve operatively interposed between said reservoir of pressurized gas and said gas-actuated jack for controlling actuation of said jack for movement of said movable latch;

a processing circuit operatively interposed between said stress detector and said solenoid valve for delivering a signal to said solenoid valve to actuate said gas-actuated jack to allow movement of said jaw to the boot-releasing position.

Claim 28. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 27, wherein:

said control system further comprises a pressure regulator positioned between said reservoir of pressurized gas and said solenoid valve.

Claim 29. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 24, wherein:

said source of pneumatic energy comprises a source of non-pyrotechnic pneumatic energy.

Claim 30. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 24, wherein:

said control system further comprises:

a solenoid valve operatively connected between said source of pneumatic energy and said jaw;

a module for detecting, analyzing, and processing forces between the boot and the gliding board during gliding and for sending a control signal to said solenoid valve for movement of said movable latch upon detection of a boot release threshold by said module.

Claim 31. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 24, wherein:

said jaw comprises a pair of lateral wings for lateral retention of the front end of the boot and a sole clamp for vertical retention of the front end of the boot.

Claim 32. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly according to claim 24, wherein:

said pair of arms of said U-shaped first portion of said plate extend longitudinally along a length of said assembly and are adapted to extend along a length of the gliding board.